UNITARIAN WORD & WORK

APRIL
1918

The Monthly Bulletin of the American Unitarian Association, The Alliance of Unitarian Women, Young People's Religious Union, and The Unitarian Temperance Society

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THE UNITARIAN NATIONAL SOCIETIES

REPRESENTED IN THIS ISSUE OF WORD AND WORK

ALL OF THESE SOCIETIES have their headquarters in the building of the American Unitarian Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. The names of the principal officers of each society will be found on the first pages of the sections devoted to their respective organizations. The work and purpose of these societies may be stated in brief as follows:

THE AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION was founded in 1825, its object being "to diffuse the knowledge and promote the interests of pure Christianity." In furtherance of this purpose the Association publishes books, reports, and tracts; supports missionaries; establishes and maintains churches, and aids in supporting ministers; assists students in preparing for the ministry; and helps fellow-citizens of foreign birth and speech in entering upon their American life. It administers endowments for the benefit of schools and churches of the Unitarian order; for the relief of poor and worthy ministers and the widows of ministers; for providing public lectures in centers of population; for the benefit of schools for colored people in the South; and for many other beneficent purposes.

THE ALLIANCE OF UNITARIAN WOMEN

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE was organized in 1890, and has for its aims primarily to quicken the religious life of the Unitarian churches, and to bring the women of the denomination into closer acquaintance, co-operation and fellowship; to promote local organizations of women for missionary and denominational work; to bring them into helpful association; to collect and disseminate information regarding all matters of interest to the denomination, such as needs of local societies, facilities for meeting these needs, work to be done, the collection and distribution of money, and in general to devise ways and means for the most efficient usefulness of the women of the Unitarian fellowship.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S RELIGIOUS UNION

THE UNION was organized in 1896, and its purposes are to foster the religious life; to bring the young people of the Unitarian churches into closer relations with one another; and to spread rational views of religion and to put into practice such principles of life and duty as tend to uplift mankind. The cardinal principles of the Union are truth, worship and service. It maintains a field secretary to promote the organization of the young people and to extend the fellowship of the Union.

THE UNITARIAN TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY is practically the working committee of the Unitarian churches to promote the cause of temperance in every way possible. It publishes and freely distributes addresses, pamphlets, leaflets and tracts, and furnishes temperance news and facts to the public press. It arranges for conferences on the subject of temperance and sends speakers to general meetings where this subject may properly have a share in the interest and attention.

UNITARIAN WORD AND WORK is regularly issued by the Publication Department of the American Unitarian Association on the first day of each month from October to June inclusive. Subscriptions can begin with any issue. Single copies, 7 cents; Subscription prices: individual subscriptions, 50 cents; in groups of 25 or more from one church, 40 cents each; 50 or more, 35 cents. Address the Publication Department, American Unitarian Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

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UNITARIAN WORD & WORK

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Vol. 21 April, 1918 No. 7

EDITORIAL

The Immediate Obligation

WE have been witnessing, during the past year, a noteworthy demonstration of the adaptability of the American people to new conditions and responsibilities. Promptly, calmly, and loyally the nation has accepted the enlistment and departure of its young men, the heavy financial burdens of the war, and the radical changes which war has brought into business and living conditions. Without undue hesitation and with a remarkable unity of purpose the foreign and domestic policies which were as old and apparently as firmly established as the Government itself have been profoundly modified or even reversed. The people have given every evidence of their readiness for sacrifice and their determination to achieve a just and lasting peace.

There is a tendency at such times to feel that all our energies and all our money gifts should go into the work of war preparation and war relief and to permit our older beneficences to get along as best they may. We need constantly to remind ourselves that the issues of this war will not be determined simply by supplying munitions and ships and men, but by upbuilding and maintaining worthy motives and high ideals. It is not the least important consideration of the hour that we shall see clearly, think justly, suffer patiently, endure cheerfully, and be loyal to our best visions. Never was the message and mission of an organization like the American Unitarian Association more timely and imperative.

The work of the Association is not a quiet eddy of dreams that can be forgotten in strenuous times. It is a work that deals directly with the moral impulses and dominating ideals of the Nation. It seeks to supply adequate motives and principles. Its endeavors do not lie in the field of theological subtleties or ecclesiastical antiquities or sectarian rivalries but in the field of strenuous life. Its processes are vital and human. Its work goes to the root of our present ills. Things can never be right until people are right and people will not be right until they are right of heart. It is necessary to raise crops and to train armies and to build ships, but shall we not also maintain the institutions that deal with the springs of conduct?

Further, can we afford to waste past sacrifices? The development of the work of the American Unitarian Association has been an infinitely costly process. It is the record of the investment of the lives and fortunes of many noble men and women. Because of their labors and sacrifices the Association has reached a large opportunity of usefulness. Must the sacrifices of the past be lost because of our unwillingness to support today a work that is more urgently needed than at any time in history? In the light of the failure of obsolete relig-

ious methods and in view of the fruits of yesterday's indifference, shall we not highly resolve that the promotion of moral idealism shall not falter or fail?

The fiscal year of the Association ends on the thirtieth of this month. The contributions of Churches, Alliances, members and friends must reach the Treasurer before that time. Checks should be made to the order of Henry M. Williams, Treasurer, and sent to him at 25 Beacon Street, Boston.

Practical Unitarian Literature

THE fact may not be generally appreciated that the organization of a Unitarian church would be possible without the assistance of a minister, or of anyone already acquainted with the methods generally employed. It would be possible for a group of people unfamiliar with the organization of a religious society and untrained in the methods of thought employed by liberal thinkers, to form an effective, up-to-date Unitarian society. This could be done by making intelligent use of the pamphlets and tracts which are distributed without cost by the American Unitarian Association, and the use of the Hymn and Service Books published by the Association.

The first practical questions which would arise would have to do with the organization and administration of liberal churches. Under what kind of a covenant should they accomplish their purpose? How should they arrange their committees? If they contemplate calling a minister what is the usual process employed? What would be the most effective system for financing such a church? What has experience taught concerning the necessary subsidiary organizations connected with it?

These and many other questions of a similar nature are carefully treated in a small pamphlet entitled "The Unitarian Hand Book." It came into existence to meet just such requirements as these, and, together with another pamphlet entitled "Church Finances and Accounting," would enlighten such a group of inexperienced laymen concerning nearly everything that would have to do with the proper administration of a liberal church.

If, in addition to this first information the newly organized society required a treatise upon the most effective way to reach the public in order to increase its numerical and financial strength, another pamphlet entitled "Church Efficiency and Publicity Work" might well be considered. This publication contains a wealth of practical information, with suggestions for wisely promoting the interests of the church, and by a careful study of it the executive officers could avoid the loose and haphazard methods, or lack of methods, which so often prevent churches from accomplishing their best work. This pamphlet contains the accumulated results of an investigation into the methods employed by many successful churches.

Then too, there is much vagueness about the duties of the members of the church; whether they hold office or not. This subject has been considered in a masterly fashion in a printed pamphlet entitled "A Word With the Pew, or Helping the Minister." This pamphlet might well be read aloud to all the members of the newly organized church to give them the right attitude towards the organization. The sympathy and personal help which could be rendered by the average member of a congregation to encourage and assist the minister or leader, are here clearly set forth. Here too, is another eloquent word concerning the vital necessity of forming and well organizing the Sunday school. In this pamphlet we learn that the really serious minded church member has as much responsibility for the growth and influence of the church as do the officers who have the executive work personally in hand.

Supposing one of our older churches has been drifting along for many years without a definite membership. Supposing many of the original members have passed away and the time has arrived when a younger generation must take the responsibility for the conduct of the church. It is reasonable to

suppose that a very thorough reorganization and a careful statement of the principles upon which such a movement is to be conducted should be properly apprehended. For the benefit of such inexperienced church workers "The Report of the Committee on Covenants" has been prepared. Here we find the more modern methods of Unitarian churches in regard to church membership, with specific recommendation to ministers and parish committees. Another pamphlet entitled "Church Membership" bears in an illuminating way upon this same subject.

Nearly all the practical problems encountered by those who desire to create, reorganize and enlarge the functions of a liberal church are treated in the series entitled "Church Efficiency Pamphlets," with which the rank and file of the members of our churches are but slightly acquainted.

SOME years ago a great deal was said in the newspapers and in various religious journals by non-church goers, giving their reasons for not attending church. So much was said along those lines, involving so much criticism of the church itself, that it seemed wise to get the reasons why equally able and conscientious laymen did believe in attending church. If there were valid reasons for withholding one's presence and influence from the up-building and support of places of worship, there must be equally good reasons why men of prominence and responsibility gave themselves unstintedly and regularly to their welfare. Accordingly we gathered together the testimonies of many loyal and devoted church attendants, many of whom were well known men of national reputation. The results of this accumulation of evidence are embodied in a pamphlet entitled "One Hundred and Fifty Laymen on Church Attendance." It contains many interesting and cogent reasons for attending church, and it forms a splendid body of testimony from men who saw clearly what the church stood for, what it meant to them personally and what it contributes to the welfare of society in general. Such information as this it is well for every congregation to know is always available. Much time and confusion could be avoided if adequate familiarity were gained on the part of those who have these matters in hand. It is safe to say that not one in ten of our regular church attendants is aware of this important fact, and I call attention to it in order that any who are thus interested in church work could consult such resources which are the result of many years of practical effort.

No one can visit extensively various churches of our denomination, east and west, without coming to the conclusion that more than three-fourths of the success of prosperous Unitarian churches is due to the executive ability, the industrious and systematic arrangement of the activities of the church, and the prompt and efficient adaptation of means to ends. The minister may be eloquent and effective as a preacher, and yet the church may fail to have any great influence in the community. The pulpit alone is not sufficient in these days to assure the presence of large congregations, or become a vital factor in the welfare of a given community. It needs the co-ordination of its members in the work of the church, the sympathetic interchange of practical opinions on the part of minister and people, and an earnest spirit of the whole congregation expressed in social, philanthropic and devotional terms, to compose the full sphere of church influence. More help in gaining these desirable ends could be obtained if serious courses of study could be planned for those who want to do good church work, and such courses of study could be conducted successfully with the help of such pamphlets as are here referred to, and many others which can be found on our Free List.

American Unitarian Association

Headquarters: 25 Beacon Street, Boston

Rev. Samuel A. Eliot, D. D., *President* — Henry M. Williams, *Treasurer*
Rev. Louis C. Cornish, *Secretary* — W. Forbes Robertson, *Assistant Secretary*

Ministerial Personals

Rev. Celia P. Woolley died at Chicago on March 10. She had long been identified with the social work of the Frederick Douglass Centre.

Rev. Henry D. Stevens died at Whitman, Mass., March 22, age 72. He had held brief pastorates in Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, and more recently at Whitman, Reading, Sterling and Walpole, Mass.

Rev. Louis C. Dethlefs of Medford has been commissioned a chaplain in the National Army and Lieut. Paul S. Phalen of the Field Artillery has also been commissioned a chaplain.

Rev. H. H. Lloyd, formerly of Chattanooga, Tenn., has accepted a call to Marietta, O.

Rev. T. C. Brockway has resigned at Butte, Mont.

Rev. A. J. Wilson of Brighton, Mass., has had charge for a month of the new movement at Knoxville, Tenn.

Rev. R. E. Conner will act as supply for the pulpit at Marlboro, Mass., for the next four months.

Rev. A. L. Weatherly of Lincoln, Neb., has been granted leave of absence so that he may accept an appointment under the Commission on Training Camp Activities.

Rev. Joel H. Metcalf has received leave of absence from his church in Winchester and has gone to France as a Y. M. C. A. Secretary.

Rev. Edward Day of Eugene, Ore., is in charge of the Camp Library at Camp Cody, Deming, N. M.

Rev. S. S. Booth has taken charge of the church at South Natick, Mass., and Rev. F. R. Gale at East Lexington, Mass.

Rev. A. J. Coleman is acting as stated supply of the church in Westboro, Mass.

Appointments

The Sunday preaching appointments of the President of the Association during March were at Brooklyn, N. Y., Chicago, Ill., Wellesley Hills and Melrose, Mass., and the Middlesex School. In April he expects to meet preaching appointments at Brockton and Washington. The Secretary of the Association preached on the last two Sundays of March at the Second Church in Boston and at Wellesley Hills. On April 7th he will be at Newton Centre and then goes westward. The Secretary of the Department of Religious Education has met preaching appointments at Wilmington, Del., Waltham and Newton Centre, Mass., and attended the sessions of the Religious Education Association in New York. He will spend most of April in Iowa. The Secretary of the War Work Council has kept appointments at Weston, the Somerville Red Cross, Newton Center and Providence.

Field Secretary Brown remains in charge of the Church of the Unity in Worcester. Field Secretary Gilmore has preached for the last three Sundays at Newburgh, N. Y., Summit, N. J., and Montreal, Can. He has also attended meetings in Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Trenton and Elizabeth, and the sessions of the Meadville Conference at Meadville. Field Secretary Nobbs has preached at Lynn and Plymouth, Mass., and Houlton, Me., made addresses at Allston and Brookline, Mass., and Presque Isle, Me. He has also been able to meet many appointments for addresses on Food Production arranged by the Public Safety Committee of Massachusetts. Mr. Nobbs' two visits to northern Maine have been productive. The vestry of the church at Presque Isle has been thoroughly repaired and is now pleasant and convenient. The people appear to be ready to make a new start. Aroostook County is marvelously fertile and presents a rich field for a vigorous and active minister. It is probable that in the spring and summer new efforts will be made to revive

and extend our work and reopen the church at Presque Isle.

Journeys

As announced in the last issue Dr. U. G. B. Pierce of Washington has accepted a commission from the Directors of the Association to go to the Pacific Coast in April. His itinerary is being arranged with the following appointments in view:

April	5	Colorado Springs
	7	Denver
	10	Salt Lake City
	14	Redlands
	16	Los Angeles
	18	Long Beach
	19	Santa Ana
	21	San Diego
	23	Santa Barbara

He will then proceed to keep his appointment as University Preacher at Leland Stanford University and he will give the Commencement Address for the Pacific Unitarian School for the Ministry. His residence for some weeks at Palo Alto will enable him to visit a number of the Unitarian churches about San Francisco Bay.

The Secretary of the Association will make a brief journey during the present month with appointments at Canton, N. Y., where he will lecture to the students of the Divinity School of St. Lawrence University; Gouverneur and Rochester, N. Y.; Ann Arbor, Mich., and Meadville, where he will lecture to the students of the Theological School.

Rev. William I. Lawrance, Th. D., Secretary of the Department of Religious Education, will go West in the middle of April and give three Sundays and the intervening weeks to strengthening our churches in Iowa. This service will begin on April 12-14 at Davenport, Ia., where the Society will be celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary and at the same time installing its new minister, Mr. Knapp. The succeeding appointments are being arranged by the Secretary of the Iowa Conference and will probably bring Mr. Lawrance and his travelling companions to all the Unitarian churches in the State.

Field Secretary Nobbs has already started on a brief journey South, his main objective being at Atlanta where interesting developments are going forward in connection with the proposed federation of the Unitarian and Universalist churches of the city.

The Churches and the National Service

The number of Unitarian ministers in the different branches of the national service changes every week, but at this writing there appear to be twenty-seven ministers of our fellowship who are giving their whole time and undivided attention to work with and for the enlisted forces of the United States. Five are commissioned as chaplains: — one in the regular army, three in the National army, and one in the Naval Reserve. Six are serving as officers or privates in the American or the Canadian forces. One is in the construction work of the Y. M. C. A.; two hold appointments from the Commission on Training Camp Activities; two are in charge of Camp Libraries for the American Library Association, and eleven are in France as overseas secretaries of the Y. M. C. A. In addition there are now pending before the War Department the applications of eight Unitarian ministers for appointments to chaplaincies, and before the Personnel Committee of the Y. M. C. A. the applications of five Unitarian ministers for appointment to overseas service.

In consideration of these facts it is no surprise to discover that the number of vacant pulpits in our fellowship is unprecedented. Forty active churches are maintaining their services without settled ministers and under conditions of obvious difficulty. Of these churches twenty are in New England, seven in the Middle States, five in the Western States, three in the Southern States, four in the Rocky Mountain Department, and one in the Pacific States. In addition ten churches have given their ministers leave of absence in order

that they may enter the national service, and three ministers have been given leave of absence for the winter on account of poor health. These pulpits have also to be supplied. During the winter this was possible because so many of the New England churches have been holding union services, but with the return of the congregations to their own churches all the settled ministers are again fully occupied and the supply of the vacant puplits becomes increasingly perplexing.

Our Ambassadors

Occasionally a Unitarian minister with an unduly developed capacity for cynicism speaks or writes as if the experiences of the travelling representatives of the Association partook of the nature of a junket. Such critics mistake the opportunity and quality of the men who are commissioned to such strenuous tasks. Let a few items from the reports of the representatives of the Association who have just returned to their homes testify to the nature of the work.

Mr. Savage writes: "All went well at Meadville. Thursday night I talked to the students on experiences in the field. Friday morning I took the chapel service. Friday noon I spoke to one hundred and fifty men at a luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce." Sunday found Mr. Savage in the pulpit at Cleveland, with a congregation of two hundred and thirty. Thence he proceeded to Indianapolis. "Spoke to and conferred with twenty men at Wicks' church at a luncheon. Talked ways and means and churches and men. Arrived here (Kansas City) last night. To-day luncheon at the City Club, — twenty-five fine looking men. Good opportunity to talk to them collectively and individually on loyalty, church organization and support. Tonight is their monthly supper, with a chance for me to talk." That church supper "resolved itself into a fine session of questions and answers."

"At Wichita they had a church supper and evening of talk. In all these places I have talked directly especially to the men on what they are not doing and on what they should be doing in ways of efficiency."

At Oklahoma City Mr. Savage had the Sunday service and on Monday "there was a sort of reception, with a surprising number out. I talked like a Methodist, saying many things the minister could not s on what they ought to be doing in this remarkable town, and on what they could do with the right spirit applied. After I finished two from the congregation spoke well. This city is rushing toward bigness." The next letter records a "most successful time in Dallas. More than most successful time in the Camps at Fort Worth and Waco. Night before last at Camp Bowie I spoke twice to large groups of Texans and Oklahomans. The Y. M. C. A. secretaries were most cordial. Yesterday at Waco I was happily surprised. A big crowd at my meeting, made up of boys from all over the States. They listened steadily and afterward I had good talks with lonely boys from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine."

Next, and let it be remembered that to meet such appointments means night travel nearly every night, "gave a very unscientific talk to the San Antonio Scientific Society. To-day, Sunday, preached here (Houston) to a full house, though as you know the house is small. Tomorrow noon a lengthy talk with some of the men at the University Club. Tonight preach at the Camp and tomorrow night speak there again."

Thence Mr. Savage went to New Orleans, where he spoke Tuesday night, and then to Camp Shelby where he had another "big talk." At Louisville he spoke "at the Camp (Camp Taylor) Saturday night, Sunday afternoon and Sunday night, and preached at the Unitarian Church Sunday morning. Talked to the Unitarian Men's Club at Louisville Monday night and at Dayton Tuesday night."

Similar extracts from Mr. Simons' reports illustrate what a Director of the Association does when he is on the road.

He began with a reception and address at Charleston, W. Va. The following Sunday he preached at Knoxville, Tenn., and thence to Chattanooga, "had a very pleasant time. Not a large number at the meeting but they seemed the right sort. Then a Forum address at Birmingham," and a Sunday morning sermon. "Byrnes is making a good fight — good in every sense of the word. He is getting helpfully and intelligently into the life of the City, which is probably the best way to put the movement right. Birmingham is a town with just the kind of promise that is worth while for our cause. I was given splendid opportunities at Camp McClellan, speaking four times in three nights and looked up several Unitarian boys. Have just finished a most profitable and enjoyable visit to Camp Sheridan. The Y. M. C. A. men have been very friendly and I have spoken to large groups for three nights. It is difficult to estimate the numbers but the auditoriums were filled. My Cleveland boys are here and I am writing to their parents that I am proud of them." Then Mr. Simons went to Florida and preached at Orlando on the 15th "clad in heavy clothing on a July day." There followed the annual meeting of the church, with encouraging reports. Then to Jacksonville for Sunday. "Delightful time. Sunday morning service and then a church supper, with twenty-five soldiers from Camp Johnston . . . spent the next day at Camp Johnston. Pierce is doing good work there as assistant librarian. It is a specialized Camp, made up of high-grade men, and Pierce is in a position to be of great service to them . . . Last night Gray had his annual meeting in Charleston. Here again the reports were encouraging."

Then Mr. Simons went to Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C., and Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, S. C., "Had two wonderful days. On my way to Richmond I actually felt homesick at the thought that my services in the camps were over and so the unexpected invitation to Camp Lee (Petersburg, Va.) was joyfully accepted. Everywhere I have been able so to gain the confidence of the men that after my talk they have grouped around me and we have had a sort of informal open forum. I think I was able to straighten out a good many misconceptions. At Richmond the church was filled on Sunday morning and many enthusiastic things were said to me about Pratt."

Such a program obviously means steady and increasing labor but deep rewards in a sense of usefulness.

Similar reports come from the Editorial Secretary of the Association, who has been for three weeks in California. "I have been on the jump. Preached at Redlands, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Santa Barbara and Berkeley. Made addresses or lectures at Los Angeles (3), Santa Barbara, San Jose, Palo Alto, San Francisco and Berkeley (3). Had many personal interviews, etc. To-day we go to Stockton and Sacramento. Then to Salt Lake City, Denver and Omaha, and reach Meadville for the Conference March 25-27."

Anniversary Week

A little more than seven weeks remain before the May Meetings, when the Association will hold its Ninety-third Annual Meeting. Like a ship that has sailed many seas and gone through fair weather and foul we have come on tempestuous days when the seas run high and when the cross currents of life baffle and threaten. It is to be remembered that in the past we have encountered days which seemed to the men living through them as terrible as these. The Association worked slowly and gathered momentum through the first thirty odd years of its existence. Its work almost ceased during the period of the Civil War. Things are very different today. At the end of the first year of the present war the Directors of the Association and their war work council will be able to make a report which will bear large testimony to the virility of the religious ideals for which we stand. Never were the times so responsive to our message; never were

the old conventions of theological thought and accretions of custom so little regarded. At the May Meetings it will be shown how we have testified, and how we may still further serve. The key-note will be not our accomplishments, but our unfinished tasks. When winds are favorable and the seas are smooth it is legitimate and helpful to look over the vessel's log, but in days like these the course ahead is the absorbing desire and need. Few details of the program can be announced in this issue of WORD AND WORK, but it will interest the readers to know that the Rev. Minot Simons of Cleveland is to preach the Anniversary Sermon.

Department of Community Service

If the notes this month seem to be as much about war work as community service it is because in these days they are practically one and the same thing. The old and established philanthropies of local churches are being continued as usual, but very little new work is undertaken unless it has some relation to the war. One form of service in which a number of the churches in the vicinity of mobilization camps have lately become interested, is the extension of hospitality to soldiers and sailors. This generally takes the form of a party; a group of enlisted men are invited to supper at the church and this is followed by some kind of entertainment which fills the evening. The men crave something different from the army fare; while this is substantial it becomes monotonous, and a supper of home cooking is enthusiastically welcomed. A dance is the form of entertainment enjoyed most. The men in the camps are cut off from the society of women and a chance to meet and talk with them is eagerly accepted. Other forms of entertainment readily suggest themselves, — games, theatricals, moving pictures, etc. The Army and Navy Departments have let it be known that they regard such hospitality on the part of the churches as a patriotic service, and it is fair to say the response has been spontaneous and generous.

All over the country wherever the camps are located our churches are gladly doing their duty by the soldiers. Doubtless, too, there are churches not near any camp which would like to have a part in this work but see no opportunity. A way is now open for such churches to come into it if they wish. Bulfinch Place Church, Boston, was among the first to extend this hospitality. It has given a number of very successful parties. Recently it entertained a group of twenty-five or thirty sailors, and through the Secretary of the Department it was arranged that the expense should be borne by the E. H. Sears Guild and the members of the Alliance of the First Parish, Weston. Weston is rather too far from Boston to make it convenient to entertain any considerable number of men, but this arrangement enabled the First Parish to do its bit. The Bulfinch Place Church stands ready to repeat this party in the near future. It will provide the place, the workers and the entertainment if some other church will supply the funds.—This widens the circle of churches able to do something for the wholesome amusement of the men in service and it seems as though many churches would be glad to avail themselves of the chance. If there is any church or any organization in a church which will supply the funds for an April party and will communicate with Mr. Forbes he will give all the information as to date, cost, etc. The expense is not great and can easily be provided. It is a very generous offer from the Boston church and the Secretary hopes soon to hear from some church which wishes to take advantage of this opportunity.

Five of our ministers are now chaplains in the United States service, — Reverends Louis C. Dethlefs, Albert Levitt, John N. Mark, Paul S. Phalen and George D. Rice. Experience has shown that one of the most important needs of a chaplain is a fund upon which he can draw to meet urgent necessities which come to his attention. Emer-

gencies arise in the affairs of the men which call for temporary assistance. If the chaplain is able to take care of them it relieves worry and distress which otherwise may seriously impair the value of a good soldier. Then, too, the chaplain who is devoted to the interests of his men finds himself obliged to buy small supplies for their comfort and welfare, and with no funds at his disposal he has to pay for them out of his own pocket. His salary is small and it is impossible for him to meet many calls out of it. It would be a gracious thing to provide our Unitarian chaplains with a fund upon which they can draw in these emergencies. It need not be large, $50 a month for each of them, or a total of $2500 for a year, would be of great help. It is not intended to make a general appeal for this sum, but if any generously disposed persons wish to contribute to such a fund donations can be sent to Mr. Forbes, Secretary of the War Work Council, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

The Service Bulletin of the General War-Time Commission of the Churches contains a useful suggestion:

"An officer of one of the Canadian home missionary organizations, who inquired recently concerning our plans for reassimilating the men who came back from the front, stated that they had found the maintenance of the connection between the local church and its boys at the front of very great value. The boy at the front should hear from his church at home in some way at least once every month. Even though the correspondence may at first seem artificial to him, after he has been at the front for some months it comes to have a vital meaning to him. The fact that the church persists in keeping in touch with him has its effect in the end."

Department of Religious Education

Dr. Samuel A. Eliot, President of the American Unitarian Association, was elected to the presidency of the Religious Education Association at its annual meeting held in New York on March 5 and 6. This is the second time this high honor has come to one of our faith, Prof. Francis G. Peabody having been president in 1908. The Association has members and officers in almost every land and includes in its fellowship all religious bodies, evangelical and liberal, Protestant and Catholic, Christian and non-Christian alike. Both geographically and in the scope of its interests it is one of the largest of all religious associations. It fosters the most advanced methods and promulgates the most rational ideas in religious education. The Association is guided in its policy by a central committee called the Council, of which Dr. Hugh Hartshorne, of Union Theological Seminary, is president and Dr. William I. Lawrance is secretary. Rev. Florence Buck and Miss Mary Lawrance are members of the Council, Miss Buck being a member of the governing board.

In the magazine *Religious Education* for February appears a full-page advertisement of *The Beacon Course in Religious Education*, with the heading "The Latest Word in Sunday School Manuals." The following "characteristics" are pointed out as distinguishing the course: Frank acceptance of Biblical scholarship; a world view of religion and revelation; pupils' needs and interests fully recognized; religious instruction from the social viewpoint; training for Christian living the constant aim; ample and artistic expressional material; carefully graded and progressive instruction.

With six manuals in this Beacon Course now ready for use, with appropriate handwork for pupils, two more going through the press, and still another nearly ready for the printer, the Course is sufficiently advanced to challenge consideration as a whole. The editors are confident that whether tested by competent examination, by comparison with other publications in this field, or by actual use in the Sunday school and the home, the Beacon Course will amply justify the claims made for it. Now that it is sufficiently advanced to provide equipment for schools of any size, we confidently summon our churches to acquaint themselves with it, to learn its underlying principles, and to adopt it as their course of study. Whether ministers, superintendents, or others having the responsibility of pro-

viding material for schools, are actuated by denominational loyalty or by a desire to have their young people provided with manuals that are highly attractive, constructive, liberalizing, and that aim to develop boys and girls into high-minded men and women, they cannot do better than to adopt *The Beacon Course in Religious Education.*

Reports that have so far reached this office show that the response to our appeal for help for the children of Bible lands has been most generous, amounting to $1,916.07. The need persists and additional help will be gladly received. Contributions should be sent directly to the national committee, which is also interdenominational, checks being made payable and letters addressed to Cleveland H. Dodge, Treasurer, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City.

Publication Department

The marked increase in the number of churches adopting the Bi-Pocket Envelope System, and the words of commendation which have come from those churches that are re-ordering for the next year, encourages us to continue to bring before our churches this efficient system of church financing, which can be either combined with the method now in use in the various churches or can be adopted as a separate and distinct means of raising the necessary funds. Full particulars will be furnished upon application to the Publication Agent.

The demand for our material, especially the publications in the Army and Navy Series, is increasing every month. Not only are our churche making large demands, but clubs, societies, schools, and various other civic organizations, in addition to those devoted to war work, have made constant and large requests for this material.

We have recently issued an attractive little folder addressed to the Men of the National Army. It is a message of congratulation, courage and inspiration. Limited quantities will be furnished upon application.

During the past month the First Unitarian Society, Denver, Colo., and the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, Md., have adopted the *New Hymn and Tune Book.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

The following recent books which may be classed as "books on liberal religion," "by Unitarian authors" or "about well-known Unitarians," have been acquired during the past month. They may be seen at the Book Room, 25 Beacon Street, and purchased at the accompanying prices.

A History of the Christian Church, by Williston Walker, D.D.; $3.00 net or $3.20 by mail.

Life of Carl Follen, by George W. Spindler; $1.50 net, or $1.64 by mail.

The Meaning of Prayer, by Harry Emerson Fosdick; $0.60 net, or $0.68 by mail.

ESSENTIAL CHRISTIANITY—(Army and Navy Series)

By Abraham Mitrie Rihbany

An urgent call to men to realize that God's method in building up the world is not sameness, but diversity in harmony. Essential Christianity means a "diversity of gifts, but the same spirit"; different churches, but the same purpose; different forms, but one faith and one baptism of the spirit.

Published for Free Distribution

WAR WORK COUNCIL OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCHES

25 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

THE FIRST CENTURY OF THE LIBERAL MOVEMENT IN AMERICAN RELIGION

(A. U. A. Series, No. 289)

By Earl Morse Wilbur

The substance of an address at the anniversary of the Alumni Association of the Harvard Divinity School, June, 1916. A review of the broken record of eighty years of conflict for unhampered liberty of spirit terminating in twenty years of peace, which we may trust will not again be disturbed.

Published for Free Distribution—Order as No. 289, not by title

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT, AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

25 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

The Alliance of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women

Headquarters: Room 10, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Miss Lucy Lowell, *President*
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Lucia Clapp Noyes, *Treasurer*
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Caroline S. Atherton, *Rec. Sec.*,
25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Robert H. Davis, *Cor. Sec.*,
226 Windermere Ave., Wayne, Pa.

"I trust in nature for the stable laws
Of beauty and utility.—Spring shall plant,
And Autumn garner to the end of time:
I trust in God — the right shall be the right
And other than the wrong, while He endures;
I trust in my own soul, that can perceive
The outward and the inward, nature's good
And God's."

Browning.

The Alliance is following Miss Lowell with eager interest in her visits along the western coast. However, it may be with the western Alliance woman, to the eastern Alliance woman, these many visits have made the distance across the country seem less than when Mrs. Fifield made her official journey a few years ago. Miss Lowell's March itinerary has been as follows: March 14, Los Angeles, March 16, Long Beach; March 18, Redlands; March 20, Santa Ana, March 21; Pomona, March 23 San Diego; March 26, Fresno; March 27 and 28, Santa Barbara and March 30 Santa Cruz.

By April first Miss Lowell will reach San José, on April second will visit Palo Alto, making her headquarters for a few days at San Francisco, while she attends meetings at Berkeley, Alameda, the Northern California Associate Alliance, Stockton, Woodland, Sacramento and Oakland. By the middle of April she will go north to Oregon to visit Eugene, Salem and Portland.

The Post Office Mission. Two Letters

From a Unitarian Soldier to his Mother —

"I've gotten into the religious work of the Y. M. C. A. somewhat and because I've been a little dutiful in attendance, they've put me on committees and given me charge of a Bible class for my company. Oh! I'll be a preacher yet, eh?" Believe me, I'm going to make it as real and worth while a Bible Class on those occasions as I can. There's going to be some connection between the Bible and *life* brought out more clearly. If the men would emphasize the fact more of the connection between the parables of the Bible and our life today, rather than dwell so much on Bible stories and use Biblical phrases:—consider the Bible as the Good Word and refer to it at well-chosen times. That is very necessary."

From Rev. Earl C. Davis, Unitarian Camp Chaplain at Camp Devens —

"Permit me to say that in my judgment the Post Office Mission Committee has accomplished a great deal, — at least so far as it has contributed to the work in Camp Devens. I have received reports from 26 different churches, giving me the names of 83 men. Some of these I had known of before but in many such cases the reports furnished more definite information than I had. In many other cases, especially the names of officers, the names sent in were entirely new. Furthermore in several cases the letters have opened the way for an approach to the men. In one case it was a contributing factor in my being called to Divisional Headquarters for the purpose of admitting a man into the fellowship of one of our Churches. Of the names which your committees have sent in, there are included eight captains, 31 lieutenants 5 higher officers, and 39 privates. So far as I know there are here among the Unitarians 7 or 8 higher officers, 13 captains, 43 lieutenants, and about 200

or more privates and non-commissioned officers. A very great many of the Unitarian soldiers are non-commissioned officers and several of these are now in the Officers' Training School.

Within the past week there have been many transfers of the men from one company to another, and not a few men have gone to other camps. To what extent these changes have affected my list I do not know. It might be to the point for your committees to follow up such changes as you are able to learn about.

Within a few days the last 15 percen- of the first draft will come to Camp Devens. At that time the men are new to the life here, and I might be of much greater use to them than to men who have been here longer. After they get into the swing of things, there is not much time for traveling about the camp. Also I should feel much more free in making myself known to new men, than to men who have been here a long time.

Within a very few weeks the men of the second draft will be coming here. I should suggest that the local committees keep in touch with the men and then advise me as soon as they come.

I hope that these rather dry facts may be of some interest to you. May I add two observations of a more general character.

The first is the character and standing of the Unitarian men. They seem to have a quality about them that is gratifying. Which is cause and which is effect here, I do not pretend to say, but the fact seems to be that certain very desirable qualities are to be found among our men, and one feels that somehow it is a sanction of the religious influences that they have been under.

The other point, I think that Unitarians must feel that they have a great task before them at this time in taking their place as the religious leaders of the nation. Thomas Jefferson said that he expected to see the time when every young man in America would be a Unitarian. I believe that the time is coming. Every great social advance rests finally upon a religious faith for its motive power. I see such evidences of it here every day as to almost overwhelm me. The task of the men here, the immediate task I mean, is the task of arms, but behind that is the still greater task, both in its immediate significance, and in its abiding significance the task of re-interpreting the religious experience of men in terms of these new conditions. While they are doing their task, we folks at home must do ours, and, most important of all, this very real task in religion.

Permit me to express my very great appreciation of the work which your committees are doing. If I may seem to be suggesting still more work, may that also be included as a witness to the worth of your work."

Post Office Mission Committees are urged to follow the suggestions made and send word to the chaplains at once of any changes; also send new names promptly.

Executive Board

The regular meeting was held March 8, Miss Lowell presiding. There were present thirty-five Board members, from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, two committee chairmen and two branch officers.

The President, who was to leave Boston the next day, named the twenty-seven branches of California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia that she is to visit, and cordial greetings were sent to each branch and the President was given a heartfelt God-speed.

The Headquarters report announced the removal of Unitarian Headquarters in California to 760 Market St., San Francisco.

The Board expressed its interest in advancing the sale of Liberty Bonds by voting to insert an advertisement in the Christian Register of the next Liberty Loan Drive. The director for greater New York spoke of the plans of the New York League in connection with the next issue of the bonds. The Board feels that the various forms of war ser-

vice should be carried forward by states and communities in whose work our representatives will have their part. It is suggested that information be obtained of what Unitarians have done and are doing in this line, that we may not be omitted when tabulated reports are published.

On recommendation of the Southern Circuit Committee it was voted to send a letter of thanks to Miss Edith G. Pecker, who during the absence of Mr. Robinson conducted most acceptably the Sunday services in the Swansboro, N. C., Circuit.

The Rev. Albert C. Dieffenbach, editor of the Christian Register, was present and asked the co-operation of The Alliance in extending the use of the Register as the organ of the several departments of the denomination and an agency for serving our churches. Will branches note that while the subscription is $3.00 a year, a branch has the privilege of keeping for its treasury $1.00 of each new subscription and 30 cents of each renewal, forwarding the balance to the office of the Christian Register, 6 Beacon Street, Boston.

Mrs. Voigt reported with grateful appreciation contributions for the crèche at Cap d'Antibes, France, of more than seven hundred dollars, and for the Hospital of Mme. Loyson fifty-five dollars, a good beginning. The money has come from Alliance branches and Juniors, Sunday Schools, and individuals.

The Junior Fellowship Committee asks that the work of all organizations of our young people be reported and not alone that of the Junior Alliance.

The May Meetings committee announced that the public meeting of the Alliance will take place Monday, May 20 at 2.30 P. M., in Tremont Temple. There will be a devotional service conducted by Rev. Abbot Peterson, followed by addresses from Revs. Dilworth R. Lupton of Louisville, and Abraham M. Rihbany of Boston. The business meeting will be held Wednesday, May 22, at 10 A. M., in the First Church, and at 2 P. M.; a general conference of Alliance workers together with Post Office Mission and Cheerful Letter conferences will be held in the South Congregational Vestry.

Through the branch at Concord, N. H., the names of Mrs. Finette M. Richardson and Mrs. Ellen Downing Hill have been placed in memoriam; and that of Mrs. Harrison W. Hugueley by the Second Brookline branch.

The resignation of Mrs. Auld, director for Vermont, necessitated by the illness of Mr. Auld, was accepted with regret. That of Mrs. Frederick T. Lord as a member of the central Post Office Mission committee was accepted with appreciation of her many years of faithful service.

Mrs. Walter S. Swisher, of New London, was elected director for Connecticut.

Reports were received from New England branches, in one of which occurred the following:

"After the splendid work of the Canadian Alliances, under such hard conditions, we who have endured only inconvenience thus far cannot complain or lose courage to go on with our Alliance work."

At the next meeting, April 12, reports are due from all the western states and Massachusetts reports will be concluded.

CAROLINE S. ATHERTON,
Recording Secretary.

Camp Devens Fund

The following additional contributions to the Camp Devens Fund through the New England Associate Alliance are gratefully acknowledged.

STELLA P. BEARD,
Treasurer.

Waverley, Mass.	$1.00
Sudbury, Mass.	5.00
Chelsea, Mass.	2.00
Whitman, Mass.	2.00
Beverly, Mass. (additional)	5.00
Winchester, Mass. (additional)	10.00
Providence, R. I., Westminister Branch (additional)	5.00
Berlin, Mass.	5.00

The Monday Conference of Alliance Branches will meet at 25 Beacon St.,

Boston, Monday, April 1st, at 10.30. Mrs. John K. Whiting of Brookline will preside and there will be an informal discussion on, "What is our Work for Next Year?"

New England Associate Alliance

The New England Associate Alliance will hold its spring meeting at Federation House, Ayer on April 18, at 10 A. M. The morning train leaves North Station, Boston at 8.15.

An interesting session is planned which will have especial bearing upon war service. Alliance women who find it convenient to be entertained in Boston on the night of April 17, may notify Miss Mary C. Sawyer, Wellesley Hills, Mass. There will be patriotic music by a regimental band. Prof. Herbert Carlyle Libby will make an address on "The Cure for Un-Americanism;" Mrs. Alice Higgins Lothrop on "Civil Relief;" Rev. Paul R. Frothingham on "American Ideals." After a box luncheon, ample time will be allowed for visiting Camp Devens. It is hoped that any Unitarian soldiers who can be free will during the afternoon be able to act as guides.

Junior Fellowship Notes

Three of our largest Junior Alliances and one smaller one have brief reports for us this month:

Louisville, Ky. — The Junior Alliance meets weekly in the homes, instead of in the church, in order to save coal, with an average attendance of 17, for Red Cross knitting and sewing. Also a committee meets weekly to make surgical dressings, and on Sunday afternoons the members are on hand to serve tea, etc., to the soldiers of Camp Zachary Taylor. Instead of having the usual candy table at the annual fair of the Branch, they collected $27.50 from the members. In December they presented a service flag to the church.

Leominster, Mass. — The members have filled 15 comfort bags, they gave three Thanksgiving dinners, and sent Christmas boxes to Leominster children who are at a sanitarium. They held a "Hoover Social," with an entertainment and dancing, and served war bread, sandwiches and fruit punch, and made $20.

St. Louis, Mo. — This Junior Alliance has about a dozen members, and is composed chiefly of younger girls, as many members have gone to college. They meet every two weeks after school at the church, and some knit for the Red Cross, while others make scrap-books for children in a Mission School that is supported by the Church of the Messiah.

Fairhaven, Mass. — Last April the members voted to provide two comfort bags every month as long as possible. They had a sugarless candy table at the fair of the Senior Branch and made nearly $40. At Christmas and at Easter they sent a victrola record to the lepers of Penekese Island. They also sent at Christmas a doll to each girl and a knife to each boy in a nearby sanitarium. At present they are making surgical dressings at their meetings.

News from the Branches

The members of the New Orleans Woman's Branch Alliance are keeping apace with war activities in the different branches of Red Cross work. Some have opened their homes, others are giving regular service, the Parish House is given over to one Chapter of the D. A. R.

A number of the women meet every Monday, spending the whole or a part of the day knitting articles for the soldiers. Up-to-date they have made: 54 sweaters, 18 helmets, 10 mufflers, 16 wristlets, 40 pairs of socks, 2 pairs of leggins, 30 wash cloths, 1 abdominal band, 6 eye bandages and 12 sponges. The wool is furnished largely by the Navy League but whenever knitted articles are sent to members of the church the wool is furnished by private contribution in the local church.

At the March meeting of The Philadelphia League of Unitarian and Other

Liberal Christian Women, Mrs. George Newcomb of Wilmington read a paper on "The Heroism of Early English Unitarians," giving a history of the persecutions to which they were subjected for their religious belief. Twenty-five dollars were appropriated to the Italian Mission. Rev. Oscar B. Hawes having expressed a wish for socks for all his men in France, the Germantown Alliance reported having purchased the wool, and sent it to the Eastern Penitentiary where it was quickly transformed into socks, by the prisoners and their knitting machines. 159 pairs being finished in the course of two or three days after the wool was received, at an expense of a few cents a pair, the amount being paid to the men who did the work. The members of the League are greatly interested in devising ways to entertain the enlisted men at the Navy Yard and nearby camps.

Mrs. Donnell, director for New Jersey writes: "The director is convinced that no group of women are farther ahead or stand more loyally shoulder to shoulder than do Alliance women. In some New Jersey branches the all engrossing Red Cross work has been taken out of the branches to a general headquarters, credit of individual work still being given to the units. In such cases relief sewing is substituted at Alliance meetings. There is distinctly felt the need of cheer for all ages in this time of strain, and a keen realization of the danger of disintergration of organizations. No Unitarian extension work may be looked for this year, although Mr. Gilmore says there are promising fields for effort. There can be held no extra rally meetings in co-operation with the Ministers' Union, such as was hoped for, and which were so successful last spring. We shall have to be content with getting together at the Middle States Conference meeting to be held this year in Montclair. Our new branches at Paterson and Trenton are doing well. Every New Jersey branch feels a personal interest in them, having helped create them by mission work. New Jersey is peculiar in that it has the same intimate relations found in a small church it is like one big family, which explains, perhaps, the deep sense of sisterhood existing among its Alliance women."

The branch at Shirley, Mass., has a fine spirit and good courage in spite of the fact that forty men have gone to the army from that small town and that women are trying to do their work, several Alliance members have had their farms taken from them for the Cantonment of Camp Devens. The town is full of women anxious to be near their own men at the Camp. All this makes confusion, high prices and complicated living conditions.

The Alliance in Pittsfield is stronger than ever before — not in numbers but in works. We have had our parish work to look after faithfully, in the absence of our minister, and no better way was seen than to keep everyone busy. Our president is an active worker on the Food Conservation Committee, and has many outside calls to work in the city, besides having her ear open to every call in the church and Sunday School. Our Vice-President holds four offices, and is very active and effective in all; she also works in the Sunday School. Her class in Home Management, which meets in the evening twice a month, is pretty well attended and very interesting. There is an Alliance meeting one *evening* a month, to enable members who have business hours during the day to attend, beside the regular meetings, on the program, held twice a month in the afternoons for literary work, and all day for sewing. We have been in correspondence with Mrs. Voigt, (having sent her a contribution toward the salary of the matron at Cap d'Antibes), and find that some of the clothing we have made at our sewing meetings will not be acceptable to the children of France, as the dresses are not made of black sateen or cut by the French pattern; hence the children would be known as recipients of charity; but the knitting of caps and sweaters in dull colors is satisfactory. Several of our members are knitting for the Red Cross, also, and working at the

rooms when possible. Our pledge of three hundred dollars ($300.00) toward church expenses was paid entirely by January, and now we are having the pleasure of doing a little *more* for the church and answering a few of the outside appeals. The union services of our church and three other denominations, which the conservation of fuel has necessitated, seem to have shown to the other churches that Unitarians are not so bad after all. "What irony that physical cold should do in a few weeks what spiritual warmth has tried for years to accomplish."

At Northampton "Our year began with a reception to the Smith College Unitarian girls, all the churches keeping 'Open House' on that evening. This is to be an annual affair, the date to be set by the College Dean."

The Ladies' Aid Alliance of Needham Mass., while trying to do its bit for the war, believes that the greater the international strain and demand, just so much the more vigorously must it carry on its usual work to meet the demands of its own parish and outside calls for help. In this spirit they held their usual Christmas sale and every member made extra effort to render it a success. A good supper, to which a large part of the parish sat down, and a bright, well-acted play given by the Y. P. R. U., contributed to make the proceeds most satisfactory.

At Christmas time the San Jose branch prepared 63 boxes for "shut-ins." Last spring they sewed for a Y. W. C. A. pageant, had an after church picnic in cafeteria style (an indoor one) on a hot July day, a Young People's social and dance, an Alliance and Sunday-school picnic. Various members attended two meetings of the "Around the Bay," Associate Alliance of Northern California, at Oakland and Palo Alto. They are very zealous in carrying out the recommendations of the U. S. Food Administration. One of their committees is that on advertising, which places church announcements on bulletin boards at the church and Normal School.

Instead of the usual fairs, the branch at Palo Alto, Cal., has started raising money by the "Barrel system." That is, each member has one or more barrels that hold $5.20 in dimes, when filled. These are to be opened in May, 1918. Last October they entertained the Associate Alliance of Northern California at luncheon, 112 members being present, and an inspiring meeting held afterward in the church. This year has seen the forming of a Junior Alliance of twelve members.

The Santa Cruz, Cal., Alliance has held bi-monthly meetings, the first for regular business and sewing on layettes for the poor of the town; the second meeting all members go together to Red Cross headquarters to sew on whatever may be required. They also sent Christmas boxes to the boys in France. Once a month they give a family supper and social evening at the Church Home. Although few in numbers they seem to be very industrious.

Appeals

In order that we may have the Appeals completed by the first of May, attention is called to the list below. It will be noted that the Young People's Religious Union needs the largest amount. Here is the opportunity to show our interest in the special work of our own people.

It will be remembered that this Appeal is for the salary and expenses of a field secretary for the Y. P. R. U. without such help the carrying on of a systematic and enlarging religious work among Unitarian young men and women is practically impossible.

Appeals stand as follows:

Meadville Students	$52.25
Pacific School Students	62.25
Tuckerman School	26.50
San Antonio, Texas	23.75
Italian Mission	52.50
Young People's Religious Union	580.50
White Plains, N. Y.	304.50
War Relief (unlimited)	
Already contributed for Mme. Loyson's Hospital	64.00

Young People's Religious Union of the Unitarian Church

Headquarters: Room 11, 25 Beacon Street, Boston

Rev. Frederick M. Eliot, *President*

Rev. Nelson J. Springer, *Secretary* Mr. O. Arthur McMurdie, *Treasurer*

One year ago this month, your field secretary, then the president of the Meadville Federation, had addressed the Federation meeting in Buffalo, N. Y., speaking on the results of an experimental field trip which had just been completed. The following September he assumed his present duties. Since then he has visited more than 100 churches in behalf of the Y. P. R. U., and has covered an area extending from Boston to Des Moines, from Burlington to Washington. It may be that the number of churches visited will indicate nothing more than persistent activity which may in itself be of some value; but the area actually covered entitles the organization to claim for itself a character that is at least national. It seems further that the organization has established the value of its work in the minds of all groups it has served.

The report which the treasurer will submit in May will demonstrate at least one more pleasing truth, that the organization has exercised every genuine economy which is compatible with effectiveness. It will be obvious that no one connected with the Y. P. R. U. is holding a sinecure. We who have been most intimately connected with the work are grateful for this prospect. To how great an extent we have been pioneers may never be generally known. What risks we have taken, what plunges we have made, what leaps into the dark, inspired solely by our faith in the worth of our work and by our confidence that others would recognize this worth, testify to the courage and the aggressiveness of our directors who, because they are identified with New England might be prejudged to be conservative. Reasonably gratifying results reward that courage and daring with success.

In speaking thus, we are not too glib concerning our own virtues, because all that we have achieved has been largely dependent on the good will and excellent co-operation we have encountered on every hand. For, example, we have founded nineteen new young people's societies, involving a membership that is not far below six hundred persons; and it would be impossible for us to found one new society without the co-operation of the minister in the parish where it was founded.

The field secretary was invited, entirely without solicitation, to appeal to the February meeting of the New York League of Unitarian Women for funds. Our most difficult problem has been the metropolitan problem; and this manifest interest in New York is therefore uniquely gratifying. The church in Rochester has sent us $25.00, again without our solicitation; and one of our most complete successes has been in Buffalo, where thirty-five young people enthusiastically responded to the proposal for an organization.

This month marks the beginning of our spring drive in greater Boston, advertised in this periodical and through other channels. It represents the concerted effort of a large number of people since last December, a fact which ought to be significant. It means that the Y. P. R. U. is not conducting its work by opportunist methods, that it is pursuing a definite policy, that it has a clear vision of the future, that it has cut out for itself no transient recreation but a permanent task. Through the eminent speakers it has been able to obtain for this coming series of Sunday evening meetings, and by means of literature which it expects from now on to disseminate, it hopes to inform the whole denomination of its recent accomplish-

ments, and its plans for the years that are to come.

Since the organization has always been pressed for adequate funds, it is quick to recognize that contributions are not likely at the present time to be either large or numerous. Certainly it does not ask that anyone shall slight his patriotic duty, but it does urge that all give as generously as possible, seeing that this work is of real and permanent value. We believe that all who attend our Sunday evening meetings during this month, and on the first two Sunday evening meetings in May, will be impressed with the fact that the young people's work is of much deeper significance than they had hitherto suspected.

One woman in St. Louis recently said to the field secretary: "I had never thought before of the possibility that liberal ideals might fail through any negligence of the present generation. I had felt that our liberalizing function had been fulfilled, that we might now rest on our laurels without any fear of a retrogressive movement's setting in. Now I see that there is no rest from the task we have undertaken."

This is precisely the realization to which we have been striving to bring the men and women of our churches, that without a liberal church there remains no adequate guarantee that liberal ideals will endure; that it is our duty, as well as our privilege, to pass on intact to posterity this free religion of ours, and the historic Unitarian church which has nurtured and developed free religion, and has preserved liberalism and its blessings until the present day; and that the first work for us to do in order to perpetuate our church and its ideals is to win the enduring allegiance of our young own people.

The case is clear: the difficulties of the Y. P. R. U. are external; they do not inhere in the organization itself. For this reason its work for some time to come must be largely missionary. Obviously it can not go to a church and say: "Rebuild or reorganize to accommodate a young people's society"; and so it is compelled first to awaken interest, and then to invent various plans which will rhyme with unusual circumstances, and fit into peculiar types of major organization. This means that there must be an opportunity for a vast deal of planning with reference to specific cases. It is reasonable to believe that not more than nineteen societies will be added next year, if as many; not because there has been any reduction of the organization's ability, but because, the relatively simple cases having been disposed of, the organization will slow down to deal with the more complex problems.

It is fortunate that we have this tangible showing to make as the result of our first year's work of this kind. It will serve to show what sort of harvest can be reaped, once a field is fertilized and properly planted. Beyond Des Moines lie many cities. In these we look for other quick results during the early months of our next fiscal year. After that, the slow task with the difficult places, and the work of sustaining our present constituents, a work which, of course, goes on continuously.

But we have done more than harvest the fertile fields in order to advertise our possibilities. We have been planning. Out of this planning arose the idea of employing two secretaries, one for the field and one for the office. Out of this planning arose the proposal that we should undertake to provide young people with access to the greatest wealth of literature, and to supply them with original dramatic enterprises, produced specifically for their uses.

The success of such plans as these and the success with which our work will be continued, will be conditioned in a large part by the success of our annual meeting in May. We hope that all societies will send full quotas of delegates, and that as many others will attend as possible. We promise a meeting of great interest. In return, we ask that you come and help us arrange for the official sanctions of what is to be done next year.

SIX CONSECUTIVE SUNDAY EVENINGS

AT 7.45

All Welcome!

Congregational Singing

Music

Under Auspices of the National Young People's Religious Union

April 7, at South Congregational Church, Boston.
Speaker: Rev. William I. Lawrance, Ph. D.
Leader: Rev. Edward Cummings.

April 14, at First Parish Church, Cambridge.
Speaker: Rev. Louis C. Cornish.
Leader: Rev. Samuel M. Crothers, D.D.

April 21, at Second Church, Boston.
Speaker: Mrs. Caroline S. Atherton.
Leader: Rev. Palfrey Perkins.

April 28, at First Parish, Dorchester.
Speaker: Rev. Abraham M. Rihbany.
Leader: Rev. Adelbert L. Hudson.

May 5, at Church of the Disciples, Boston.
Speaker: Rev. Maxwell Savage.
Leader: Rev. Abbot Peterson.

May 12, at Arlington Street Church, Boston.
Speaker: Rev. William L. Sullivan.
Leader: Rev. Paul R. Frothingham, D.D.

All Will Speak on Subjects Vital to Young People.

Unitarian Temperance Society

Rev. John Haynes Holmes, *President*, New York, N. Y.
Mrs. Frank L. Young, *Vice-President*, Dorchester, Mass.
Rev. Chester A. Drummond, *Secretary*, Somerville, Mass.
Charles H. Stearns, *Treasurer*, Brookline, Mass.

WHERE RATIFICATION IS NOW!

If the Constitution of the United States is to be amended to provide for National Prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor, three-fourths of the 48 states must ratify by a majority vote in their legislatures. The record of the states that have ratified now stands as follows: —

Mississippi	Jan. 9
Virginia	Jan. 10
Kentucky	Jan. 14
South Carolina	Jan. 17-23
South Dakota	Jan. 24-25
Maryland	Feb. 13
Montana	Feb. 19
Texas	Mar. 4

Next year the legislature of almost every state meets. We must see that we elect men against the referendum (only in this case a straw vote) and in favor of immediate ratification. Unitarians in New York and New Jersey should be especially vigilant.

In the meantime the whole nation is calling for War Prohibition. Everybody wants it but the liquor element of the Democratic Party. So far this element has succeeded in quashing War Prohibition when it has raised its head in Congress.

If the people would exert themselves enough they would be stronger than the adverse element in Congress and President Wilson would cease to throw a torpedo at the critical moment as he did last year.

War Prohibition is in your hands! Politics is pressure; the goods are delivered to the highest presser!

In the meantime a government that asks us to save every crumb uses 3,000,000 tons of coal, 160,000 cars, and millions of bushels of grain and glucose (an excellent substitute for sugar) for beer.

PRESSURE BY THE PEOPLE IS THE ONLY HOPE

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Abraham Lincoln

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Churches which have not yet taken their annual collection for the national work should act promptly.

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We shall be glad to send our financial circulars and collection envelopes to the churches. The churches should send them by mail to all their members.

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W. Forbes Robertson, Assistant Secretary

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